

RECORD OF HEROISM IN ACTION BY THE VOLUNTEER DEFENDERS OF THE UNITED STATES—STORIES OF THRILLING ADVENTURE ON LAND AND SEA.

The movement for providing decorations to enlisted men was officially advocated by General E. D. Townsend early in 1861. General Townsend was adjutant general of the army during the war and he urged upon General Scott and upon the chairman of the Senate committee on military affairs, the Secretary of War, and the President, that the United States army of medals or decorations similar to those awarded in foreign armies for valorous service should be given to the men on the ground that it was opposed to the spirit of our institutions to award decorations only to the officers.

Congress first took action toward securing decorations in December, 1861, when it passed a bill providing that medals to be "bestowed upon such petty officers, privates, landsmen and mariners as shall most

American eagle, which is united by a ribbon of thirteen stripes, pale-blue, gules and argent, and a scroll of azure, inscribed with two cornucopias and the American arms."

General Townsend in 1864 urged that commissioned officers be awarded gold and silver medals, with the privilege of inscribing thereon the name and date of the battle in which they were distinguished. In case of repetition of the distinguished conduct, the recipient would be authorized to add to his inscription on his medal the name and date of the second battle. This recommendation, however, was never acted upon, and today the enlisted men and officers wear the same badge of distinction.

In accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1880, it was prescribed and established

to reach the objective point as best he could. The tramp along muddy roads, through the swamps and across swollen streams was a most arduous undertaking, and only twenty of the original party reached Marietta at the time set. Two were killed by the enemy and two others were missing.

Seize the Opportunity.

Saturday morning, October 12, dawned gray and forbidding at Marietta; rain was falling copiously, but the twenty patriots were undaunted. They boarded a train of cars headed by rebel troops and armaments at the point in the city, crossed the enemy's country—and rode as passengers to Big Shanty (now Kennesaw station), having bought tickets to different stations along the line in order to disarm suspicion.

Col Clay's Gallant Service.
Colonel Cecil Clay, chief clerk of the Department of Justice, was awarded the medal of honor for gallant services at Fort Harrison. Several months ago, on the date mentioned the first division, 15th Corps, under General Stannard, stormed Fort Harrison, near Champe's Bluff, on the north side of the James river below Richmond. The action of its major, Captain (afterward colonel) John W. Copeland (General) Cecil Clay, was at the beginning of the action left in command of the 88th Iowa Infantry, which was in the rear of the line of battle at the head of its brigade, the 3d. The parapet of the fort was eight feet high, and a deep ditch surrounded it. Captain Clay, with a number of men, Private Copeland and Lieutenant Johnson, carried the colors of the 158th

...for us to lose what we had sworn to defend with our blood, and every man in the 1st Delaware was ready to perish rather than allow the colors to fall into the hands of the enemy. The 1st Delaware was made with appalling effect, and on the following day the burying party found over 300 bodies in that sunken road. Twenty-five volunteers were called for after several days, and the 1st Delaware was made to rescue the colors, and that number of volunteers responded to my call. While covering that short distance between the cornfield and the enemy it seemed as if a million

rance of the line into the enemy's camp, overheard the details of the plans which the street had determined upon, safely returned and communicated to General Hooker what he had learned, and thereby enabled Hooker to rearrange his forces so as to repulse the enemy.

At the second battle of Bull Run, after passing through one of the most desperate and yet the most successful of the war, Dillon and a handful of comrades fought their way back, step by step, showing great heroism, and

promoted to corporal and assigned to

